

Posted: _____

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. Background

BLM Office: Kremmling, Colorado

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Number: BLM-CO-120-2010-0044-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grouse Mountain Temporary Road Extension

Location of Proposed Action: T. 2 N., R. 79 W., Section 13

Description of Proposed Action: The Parks District of the Routt National Forest contacted the Kremmling, Colorado BLM office, requesting permission to extend an existing BLM road as displayed on the map below. The length of the extension on BLM administered public lands would be approximately 150 feet from the current terminus of the road to the Forest boundary. From the Forest boundary, temporary road construction would be continued on public lands administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to gain access to a salvage unit of beetle-killed trees adjacent to the Grouse Mountain Communication Site.

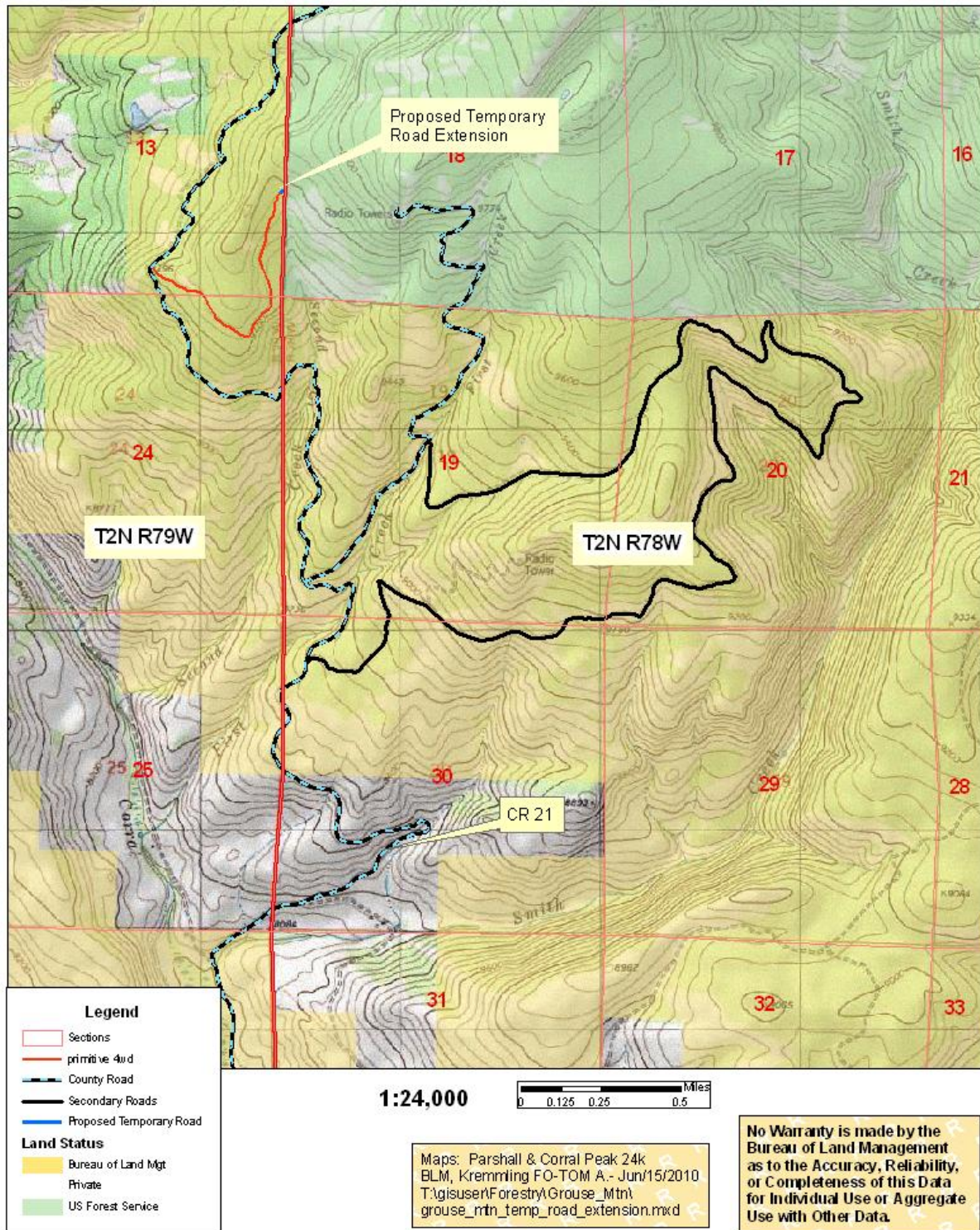
In 2007-2008, the BLM and USFS collaborated in the development of a project to protect the site, in addition to achieving other goals and objectives. Two separate analysis documents were completed: the BLM Jensen Creek/Grouse Mountain Communication Site Fuels Treatment Project; and the USFS Grouse Mountain Fuels Project.

The temporary extension of the BLM road would help both agencies accomplish their project objectives of removing hazardous trees and reducing fuel accumulation near the communication site. This project would entail temporary road extension construction, using a dozer blade, on the BLM road up to the USFS boundary. The running surface of the temporary road extension would have a width of approximately 10 to 12 feet with a clearing width of approximately 12 to 14 feet. This is similar to the width of the existing BLM road.

The temporary road would be closed following project completion. The temporary road surface, including that portion constructed on BLM administered land, would be ripped and water-barred by the contractor/purchaser, and seeded with native seed by the USFS. Slash and debris would be distributed over the surface of the temporary road for the first 200 feet to prevent use. There is

also an existing fence at the boundary between BLM and USFS administered public land that would be returned to an existing, or better condition following completion by of the project.

Grouse Mountain Temporary Road Extension



B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD). Date Approved/Amended: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions(s):

Decision Number/Page: Ch. 2 -6, page 10

Decision Language: “To manage all productive forest land that is suitable for producing a variety of forest products on a sustained yield basis. This action will create a healthy forest environment through continued forest management practices”.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.0, Section C (9), *“Commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or disease not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 miles of temporary road construction.”*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the size of the project and the design features built into the proposed action in making the determination that the proposed action would have no potential for significant impacts.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species and Wildlife	7/2/2010
Frank G. Rupp	Archeologist	Paleontology	6/24/2010
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, Wetlands	7/14/2010
Bill B. Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	7/22/2010
Peter McFadden	Associate Field Manager	NEPA	7/22/2010

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:____/s/ Peter McFadden_____ Date: ____7/22/2010_____
(Signature)

Name: __Peter McFadden_____
Title: ____Associate Field Manager _____

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Tom Adamson
Forester
P O Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459
970-724-3006

DECISION RECORD
CX # BLM-CO-120-2010-0044

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached CX.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

RATIONALE: The proposed action to construct a temporary extension to an existing BLM road to provide access to a USFS project was chosen because it meets the purpose and need identified in the analysis and is in compliance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 7/22/2010